

## 2023 Annual Meeting Recap by Josh Nathan, President

On May 7<sup>th</sup> Temple Israel held its Annual Meeting. We had a good turnout of members who were very engaged and asked great questions. We approved the slate of officers for the Board of Directors which is now 13 members strong! Most importantly and exciting was the approval of the contract to hire Rabbi Marc Philippe. He is very excited to start working at Temple Israel and has already begun collaborating very closely with Board and committee members.

One of the main focuses of the meeting is always the report on the financial well-being of TI. With COVID we saw a drop in our membership and a subsequent drop in our income but are currently holding around 100 member units. COVID relief funds helped maintain our income, but these are no longer available. We have also seen a drop in our trust fund income given historically low interest rates for many years, although this should slowly rise again in the coming years. Building maintenance expenses have also increased and of course we need to pay our staff.

The Board of Directors recently approved a 20% increase in membership dues to help maintain our budget. However, fundraising continues to be a critical source of revenue for TI, and we are thankful to all who donate

throughout the year, and for Steve Singer and Norri Oberlander for coordinating the annual S&B fundraiser, which raised nearly \$50,000 this year.

We are also very grateful for some member families and benefactors whose donations were specifically earmarked over the next 3 years to our rabbi fund. This allowed us to make a competitive offer to Rabbi Philippe. Ultimately, the goal of any synagogue is to grow its membership, which, in turn, allows us to provide the best facility, programming, and spiritual leadership possible. Rabbi Philippe is outgoing, charismatic, affable, and indefatigable. We know that TI, as well as the Jewish community at large, will thrive under his leadership and bring us all closer together.

While we have a dedicated and growing number of members in leadership positions, we still need all the help we can get from everyone else. Get involved! Ask us how you can help. Share your ideas. While we are a small synagogue, we are big at heart and even with the best financial resources we cannot succeed without you!

**L'shalom,  
Josh Nathan, President**

## Walk the Land by Carol Sternberg

Temple Israel took part in the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Israel. Jewish Organizations spotlighted cities from Eliat to Jerusalem and from Tel Aviv to Be'er Sheva in the Walk the Land Event.

Temple Israel's city was Tel Aviv. Congregants who'd been to Israel posted their pictures - and the coat of arms, the flag and the history of the city's architecture were shown. Linda Sinkow and her husband Lee did the project and offered tasty Israeli coffee!! See below.



**Many thanks to Linda & Lee Sinkow and Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins!**



- *Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies*
- *Our Temple Board for meaningful service options and activities*
- *Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues*
- *Stephen Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans*
- *David Winthrop for being our Gabbai*
- *Michael Sydney for overseeing the Hebrew Cemetery*
- *John Weber for his financial acumen and continued support*
- *Leigh Musicof for his work on our security grant*
- *Carol Sternberg Chairperson of the Kitchen Krew, Lunches and Gift Shop*
- *Kiddush Krew –Monique Shaffer, Merle Paltrow Carol Sternberg & David Winthrop*
- *Ruth Chevion for her stories about her family's escape from the Holocaust to America*
- *Temple Israel Book Club Leaders - Ken Cohn, Aida Koocher and Benay Birch*
- *Marc Stober for his school leadership and collaboration on musical services*
- *Rick Notkin for his safety & security initiative*

### Tzedaka

Ruth Chevion in memory of Sara Hausknecht  
 Aida Koocher in memory of Edward Koocher  
 Rosalind Ladd in memory of Sonia B. Eckman  
 Phyllis Levine in memory of Rose Levine  
 Michele Plotkin in memory of Sarah Plotkin  
 Rachel & Mel Spierer in memory of Bernie Goodman

Ruth Chevion in memory of Oswald Hausknecht  
 Eileen Kope in memory of Leonard Chitister  
 Cynthia Litvin in memory of Gail Litvin  
 Barbara Platt in memory of Edith Novak  
 Robert Singer in memory of Bernice Singer

### Other

Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins in honor of the BOD and Officers  
 Charlotte Gross to the Rabbi Subsidy Fund

Elaine M. Jean in memory of Carol Krensky  
 Harry Shepler to the Rabbi Subsidy Fund



The Friday night May 5<sup>th</sup> Cinco de Mayo service and dinner at the Temple was a wonderful event. About 20 hungry and happy congregants were pleasantly surprised, (I certainly was).

Cantor Marc and our wonderful guest singer guitarist Ariel Strasser added joy, RUACH, and sing-along music to the evening.

Ariel is a very talented and widely known entertainer, a graduate of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. We were thrilled to have her join us. Kudos to our Temple Israel social committee board of director members for arranging her appearance with Marc.

Josh even served up some special beverages.

Perfect Platter caterers served up a scrumptious Mexican style dinner with all the fixings including vegan chili, black beans, refried beans, (I couldn't tell the difference from real beef!). Also, tacos, salads, and ice cream. Please keep an eye out for future similar service entertainment events, and I enthusiastically urge you to attend, your spirits will be elevated.

Until barbeque season at Temple Israel is in full swing, when the weather warms, keep safe and healthy.

Shalom, Peace, Shalom,  
 Ken Cohn

# Ossie and the Bracelet By Ruth Chevion

Dear Reader, I want to tell you about my mother's older brother. His name was Oswald, but everyone called him Ossie. I want to tell you about something he did in February of 1943. He gave my mother a gift of a bracelet. Ossie was 23 years old at the time. My mother was 18.

My mother had been hiding in the Tatra mountains for several weeks before this incident with the bracelet. She had had a brush with Gestapo in Zakopane, and she had gone into hiding. She resurfaced in Krakow a few weeks later with a new false name, a new rented place to sleep, and a new job in a post office. Grim as the situation was, and Krakow itself is a pretty grim grey city, the new situation enabled her occasionally to see her mother Susha and her brother Ossie. My mother had not seen them since the ghetto, so this aspect of the new situation was a huge improvement for her. I cannot overstate the attachment my mother felt to her mother and to her older brother.

Mom's mother Susha and Mom's brother Ossie had gone to Krakow upon escaping from the ghetto. They had broken the cardinal rule that Jews should not be seen together, let alone live together as family. They were renting sleeping accommodations in the same house together. The problem was that Ossie could not pass for Polish on his own. He was handsome, but not at all in a Polish sort of way, and he spoke very little Polish. Due to family history that I will spare you, dear reader, he had moved to Poland only recently. Before that he had lived in Vienna and spoken only German.

My mother meantime, also jumped right in and broke the rules. Are we surprised? Almost everything my mother did during the war was contrary to received wisdom in some respect. So once in Krakow, it was not surprising that she would go every day to where her mother worked as a maid, just trying to have a few minutes with her mother. Meeting up with Ossie was more difficult. He worked as a nightwatchman.

Then one day, my mother accosted Ossie on the street on his way back from work. He was delighted to see her. He reached into his pocket and brought out a gift he had been keeping for her.

*Es ist ein Armband, Hertie, für dich.* (It's a bracelet, Hertie, for you.)

*Es ist aber so schön, Ossie. Wo hast du es gefunden?* (It's so beautiful Ossie. Where did you find it?)

*Auf der Strabe," he said. Ich habe es auf der Strabe gefunden.* (On the street. I found it on the street.)

*Danke vielmals Ossie. Ich werde es für immer halten.* (Thank you so much Ossie, I'll keep it forever).

And yes indeed, she kept it forever. I still have it. You must squint to see it as a bracelet, as it has no clasp, and it can't go around even the smallest wrist. It's just a mangled piece of metal really.

I have to ponder, dear reader, to whom I can leave this treasure that was worth as much to Ossie and Hertie as any jewel from Tiffany's. I won't donate it to a Holocaust museum for people to feel sad. Because it's not sad. It's one of the luminous moments. It's in my collection of Holocaust moments that say "Always remember." Always remember what the Holocaust teaches us about what it means to be human.

I'm thinking to leave the bracelet to Ela, my dear eighteen-year-old Israeli cousin, because she has two brothers who love her, and she loves them. She will understand what it means.



My Uncle Ossie



Ossie's Bracelet

## Hevra Kadisha of Central New Hampshire

Our Hevra Kaddisha is ready to help you in your hour of need to perform the ritual preparation of a deceased for burial in accordance with Jewish tradition. Do not hesitate to call us when needed. We are here for you!

Please call 603.746.5218 to initiate the process or for more information.



# An Open Letter to the Parents of Grade 6 from Morah Karen

Dear Parents of Grade 6 students,

Thank you for the gift of working with your children this year. We have learned and studied together, both as a class and in our one-to-one sessions. I have three favorite students this year; Judah, Poppy, and Stella.

Here is some of what we have learned:

- Pikuah Nefesh –our responsibilities as Jews to save a life. What are some of the hard decisions needed to look at and evaluate when confronted with a potentially dangerous situation?
- Shabbat and work – 37 different types of work and how these are reflected today. What is rest in 2023?
- HaRodef – the chaser. When and how to get involved if someone's life is in danger by being chased.
- Great Debates based on Jewish history through the ages about on ritual, community, Torah and more.

Hearing your preteen's perspectives and rationale on many of these age-old arguments and situations is always enlightening. No two students or classes have the same reasons for coming to the answers they reach. They are learning to think like Jews, using Jewish tradition and law as guidance.

For prayer, we have worked our way through the Torah service. They can all now lead the introduction to the Torah service, know how to say the Aliyah blessings, and lead the putting away of the Torah. Not only can they chant all this, but even better, they understand the meaning and why. Translations are a challenge. But they know root words to help decipher meanings.

In our one-to-one sessions, we are working on the blessings before and after the Haftorah in preparation for their B'nei Mitzvot. As their teacher I am looking forward to each of them ascending the Bima for the first time as an adult to lead us in prayer and Torah and be counted in the minyan. For the congregation reading this – please mark your calendars to celebrate with us as we call Judah on May 11, 2024, Stella on June 8, 2024, and Poppy on August 10, 2024.

It was a great year – and I'm looking forward to next year.

*Morah Karen*



305 Calef Road  
Manchester, NH 03013  
TEL: 603.622.9013  
FAX: 603.622.7696  
[www.manchestermemorialco.com](http://www.manchestermemorialco.com)  
[manchestermemorialco@gmail.com](mailto:manchestermemorialco@gmail.com)



Temple Israel Book Club  
Zoom Meeting  
Tues, June 6 at 4:30pm  
led by Rabbi Gary Atkins  
rsvp to Ken Cohn at  
[newbegin04@yahoo.com](mailto:newbegin04@yahoo.com)




**Safety & Security Committee News**




There is now a fresh, updated first aid kit on the shelf in the coatroom. Additionally, there are Stop the Bleed™ kits in a tray on the same shelf.

On the wall at the landing between floors, there is an Automated External Defibrillator (A.E.D.) in a cabinet. The unit has both adult-sized and child-sized pads as well as a bag that contains gloves, a CPR mask, a razor, etc..

The next time that you're at synagogue, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this items and locations. That knowledge could save a life.

Thank you.



Toda Raba Lah  
*Carol Sternberg*  
Gift Shop Manager Extraordinaire

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# June – Sivan 12 to Tammuz 11

## Happy Birthday!

June 1 - Rochelle Lindner

June 3 - Kim Musicof

June 6 - Cindi Singer

June 10 - Hilda Landsman

June 18 - Robert Hutter

June 20 - Andraya Oberlander

June 24 - Alfred Tauber

June 2 - Daniel Gaby

June 5 - Tal Hagbi

June 9 - Michael Fedder

June 13 - Jeffrey Oxman

June 18 - Carol Sternberg

June 23 - Maelee Lillian Russell

June 25 - Arielle Welch

June 3 - Anita Fleischner

June 6 - Iris Atkins

June 9 - Kerry Holmes-Zack

June 17 - Rebecca Singer

June 18 - David Winthrop

June 24 - Allan Swartz

June 26 - Ian Weinberg

## Happy Anniversary!

June 8 - Rochelle & Gary Lindner - 49 years

June 18 - Paula Fredriksen & Alfred Tauber - 23 years

June 12 - Elana Bannerman & Allan Lew - 9 years

June 24 - Carol & Bob Robert Sternberg - 50 years

## Upcoming June Events

**Morning Minyans** Contact [jlklein@comcast.net](mailto:jlklein@comcast.net)

June 6	4:30pm	TI Jewish Book Club on Zoom. Contact Ken Cohn at <a href="mailto:newbegin04@yahoo.com">newbegin04@yahoo.com</a>
June 7	7:00am	Morning Minyan
June 9	6:00pm	Family Shabbat & BBQ. RSVP by June 2
June 9	Office Closed	
June 14	7:00am	Morning Minyan
June 17	10:00am	Shabbat Service
June 21	7:00am	Morning Minyan
June 28	7:00am	Morning Minyan

**Save  
the  
Date!**

**Sunday July 9 at noon**  
**Welcome Brunch for**  
**Rabbi Marc Philippe & Valerie**

